



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes January 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chambers, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, Diane Gibbs, Sue McHugh, Barbara Lawther, Sean Meyers, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Connie Baker and Suzanne Casey

Staff: Mayor Pro Tem, Maggie Blackwell; Chris Branham, Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

The minutes of the December 2, 2009, meeting were approved as submitted.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Chris Branham, Code Services Manager, made a presentation of a field survey of the Green Hills Neighborhood. His presentation provided a map of the boundaries and photos. Some of the area surrounding Green Hills is in Salisbury; some are in Rowan County and Spencer. Michael King's church, which appears abandoned, is in three jurisdictions. Chris will make contact with Spencer and the County to discuss how they can improve the area. He will also talk to the City attorney about Salisbury's jurisdiction. The area receives City services.

This neighborhood is at the edge of the City of Salisbury, off any main road and not seen by the public. North Long Street to Kenly Street (Bost) takes you into the neighborhood. There is no future interest in many of the properties, although some properties have no problems at all.

There are a number of vacant, boarded up houses in this neighborhood. Of 70 parcels Chris checked 26 had structures. His observations were that 73 percent are absentee owners and 58 percent of those live in Salisbury or Spencer and should be aware of the condition of their property. Average tax valuation is \$41,000.

There has not been a great deal of calls to the police. People living there are sometimes fearful of things that go on and fear retaliation. This is happening in other parts of Salisbury, too. People living in minimum housing situations do not want to hurt their situation.

Nuisance abatement efforts have been consistent and not out of the ordinary. Chris has initiated the process for nuisance abatement and minimum housing where necessary. Several of the burned homes are in the County or East Spencer area.

Chris will update the CAC in April. The CAC will follow up with some leadership opportunities to spark the community into communicating with one another.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

Greta Connor reported that the housing subcommittee met December 15, 2009; minutes of that meeting were distributed. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet Friday, January 8, 2010, at noon in the first floor conference room at City Hall. Lunch will be provided. The January 19 presentation to City Council will be prepared at this meeting and all are encouraged to attend.

Art in Public Places

- Barbara Perry updated the Commission on the activities of the Salisbury Public Art Committee. They are preparing for the next outdoor sculpture show; they had 80 applications.
- Mark Wineka of the Salisbury Post did an article on the de-installation of the current sculpture show. <http://www.salisburypost.com/News/011010-wineka-column-on-sculptures-w-file-pic>
- The History and Art Trail brochures have been updated.

Downtown Holiday Decorations

The Salisbury Community Appearance Commission (CAC) recently selected winners for the Fifth Annual Downtown Holiday Storefront Decorations Awards. The awards are intended to promote a festive atmosphere during the holiday season. The jury of four CAC members was pleased to find this year's decorations to be more creative and more thoughtfully designed than in any previous year.

The CAC applauds Downtown Salisbury, Inc. for encouraging downtown shop keepers to enhance their window displays year-round, as well as during the holiday season. They especially thank Textile Products in the 100 block of North Main Street for the always-elegant window dressing in their own storefront as well as another across Main Street. Also worth commendation is the ongoing contribution of F&M Bank in maintaining the elegant public access along Easy Street, and Summit Developers' beautiful lighting of the street trees at 120 East Council Street.

The jury members enjoyed viewing 72 seasonal displays created by downtown businesses. After a spirited discussion, the jury settled on six different awards to honor the most creative efforts of the shopkeepers.

The award for the **Best Overall Holiday Display** was given to *Caniche* for their charming, multi-textured use of their window space, along with colorful wreaths and planters. (200 South Main St.)

The other awards were:

Best Design for a Display: *Textile Products (119-121 North Main St.)*

Most Creative Display: *A Step in Time (5 Easy St.)*

Best Display for Children: *Just the Thing (103 North Main St.)*

Best Christmas narrative in a storefront window: *Okey Dokey General Store (126 East Innes St.)*

Most Nostalgic Display: *Salisbury Square Antiques (200 South Main St.)*

The CAC would like to thank all the businesses that decorate for the season and throughout the year, making downtown Salisbury such an enjoyable place to visit and shop. All decoration winners will be invited to the CAC Biennial Awards program where they will be honored for their contributions.

Salisbury Post article

<http://www.salisburypost.com/News/121709-community-appearance-holiday-awards>

Grants

Bill Safrit and Lynn Raker reported on the grants and copies of the report were distributed. The balance of the Innes Street Grant is \$8,422.88 and the Municipal Service District is \$12,964.35. Some large requests have come in for consideration.

Awards

The CAC/Tree Board awards luncheon will take place February 18, 2010, at the Rowan Museum in the Messinger Room from 12 until 1:30 p.m. The theme is “neighborhoods.” The Buttercup Café will be the caterer. The jurors came to town and took a windshield survey of nominations and viewed a Power Point presentation. Winners of the awards have been chosen.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lynn Raker made a presentation on the Salisbury “Welcome” signs. The CAC installed these signs in the 1980s at 13 locations. The signs have outlived their life expectancy—three are missing and three are beyond repair. In addition, the appearances of the signs are “dated.”

Tom Wolpert made a MOTION to add this item to the 2010-2011 CAC Goals. Bill Safrit seconded the motion with all members voting AYE. (9-0)

A phased replacement, three years/five per year, was added to the CAC Goals and the suggestion that the new brand be incorporated in the signs. This could be a joint project with the new Salisbury Tourism and Cultural Development Commission (STCDC).

The CAC adopted a schedule of meetings for 2010. Sue McHugh made a MOTION to meet every first Wednesday of the month (except July—no meeting in July) in the Council Chamber. The December meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month, but the location is to be announced. This holiday meeting will include a social gathering often at a location away from City Hall. Barbara Lawther seconded the motion with all members voting AYE. (9-0)

Three CAC members will be rotating off of the commission and are ineligible for another consecutive term (Greta Connor, Bill Safrit, and Barbara Perry). Staff asks for recommendations to fill these vacancies; recommendations must be submitted to Kelly Baker by February 1, 2010.

Barbara Perry thanked Maggie Blackwell for coming and for being an advocate for the CAC. Maggie thanked the CAC members for the differences that each member makes in our community.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting will be February 6, 2010.